

What is claimed is:

1. A load control device having a power control element connected in series to a series circuit of a load and an alternating power supply, and a snubber circuit comprising a series circuit of a resistor and a capacitor connected in parallel to the power control element, further comprising:

suppressing means for suppressing current flowing through the snubber circuit when a load control on the load is stopped.

2. A load control device as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the suppressing means is a switch connected to the snubber circuit in series.

3. A load control device as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the switch is a mechanical relay.

4. A load control device as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the switch is a solid-state relay.

5. A load control device as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the switch is a photo-MOS transistor brought into conduction when light hits a gate thereof.

6. A load control device as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the switch is a bi-directional gate-controlled triode thyristor.

7. A load control device as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the suppressing means is a thermistor forming the snubber circuit and having a negative temperature coefficient.

8. A load control device as claimed in claim 7,
wherein the thermistor is placed in close proximity to the power control element.

9. A load control device having a power control element connected in series to a series circuit of a load and an alternating power supply, and a snubber circuit comprising a series circuit of a resistor and a capacitor connected in parallel to the power control element, further comprising:

suppressing means for suppressing current flowing through the snubber circuit during a predetermined period immediately following an end of a predetermined delay time which begins when the power control element shifts from an ON state to an OFF state.

10. A load control device as claimed in claim 9,
wherein the suppressing means is a switch connected to the snubber circuit in series.

11. A load control device as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the switch is a mechanical relay.

12. A load control device as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the switch is a solid-state relay.

13. A load control device as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the switch is a photo-MOS transistor brought into conduction when light hits
a gate thereof.

14. A load control device as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the switch is a bi-directional gate-controlled triode thyristor.

15. A load control device as claimed in claim 9,
wherein the suppressing means is a thermistor forming the snubber circuit and having
a negative temperature coefficient.

16. A load control device as claimed in claim 15,
wherein the thermistor is placed in close proximity to the power control element.

17. A load control device as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the load control device further comprising:
a delay circuit for causing a signal for turning off the switch delayed from a signal for
turning off the power control element.